THE APPEARANCE OF LORD KRISHNA

from *Krishna Book,* Chapter 1

* * * * *

CAST: Narrator, Bhumi, Lord Krishna, Lord Brahma, Lord Vishnu, Voice, Kamsa, Devaki, Vasudeva, Narada Muni, Guards, Durga, Villagers.

Narrator: Ladies and Gentlemen welcome! The Bhaktivedanta Players present for the pleasure of Srila Prabhupada and Lord Sri Krishna, *The Appearance of Lord Krishna.*

Om Namo Bhagavate Vasudevaya! **(recite three verses from *Bhagavad-Gita* about the Lord's appearances Chapter Four, verses 7, 8, 9)**

SCENE ONE

Bhumi: **(crying)** My dear Brahma, you are the predominating deity of this universe and the knower of the Vedas, having been instructed by the Supreme Lord Himself. Save me, protect me from the ravages of the demons who are now destroying all that is good and pious upon the Earth!!!

Brahma: Mother Earth, although I am known as the great Brahma, creator of the universal affairs, it is Lord Vishnu who is the source of all creation, including myself, and it is He alone who can save us from these calamities! Therefore, let us approach Him, who rests on the coils of Ananta Naga. **(*Purusha Shukta* prayers being chanted. Demigods appear in front of Lord Vishnu)**

Vishnu: My dear demigods, I am aware of the trouble being caused by Kamsa and his demonic friends. So, I shall appear on the earth planet very soon, along with My supremely powerful potencies. At that time, I shall annihilate the demons and protect the devotees. All the demigods should also assist Me by appearing in the family of the Yadu dynasty in which I shall also appear.

SCENE TWO

Narrator: Once upon a time, Vasudeva, the son of Surasena, had just married Devaki and was going home on his chariot with his newly wedded wife. At that time, Kamsa, the son of King Ugrasena, had voluntarily taken the reins of the horses of Vasudeva's chariot in order to please his own sister, Devaki.

Voice: Kamsa, you are such a fool! You are driving the chariot of your sister and your brother-in-law, but you do not know that the eighth child of Devaki will kill you!

Kamsa: Noooo! I shall kill her first!!! **(Devaki screams as Kamsa grabs her by the hair)**

Vasudeva: My dear Kamsa, you are the most famous king of the Bhoja Dynasty. How is it that you are so infuriated that you are prepared to kill a woman, who is your own sister, at this auspicious time of her marriage? Why should you be so much afraid of death? Death has already been born along with your birth. With every passing moment, you are already dying. Why then should you be so much afraid of death? Final death is inevitable. Therefore, I request you: do nor be overwhelmed by the dictation of your mind and body. The position is overall so delicate that if you kill your sister, it will go against your high reputation. Besides, since you are awaiting some danger from the sons of your sister, then why kill her? Considering all this, you are safe for the present. If there are any sons born, I promise that I shall present them to you for necessary action.

SCENE THREE

Narrator: In due course of time, Vasudeva and Devaki gave birth to a son. Vasudeva kept his word of honor and brought the child before Kamsa.

Vasudeva: Here, Devaki, give me the boy now; it's time.

Devaki: No, no! My dear husband, please do not give Kamsa this child you know he will kill the innocent baby!

Vasudeva: I have given my word of honor, which cannot be broken. Please give me the child.

Kamsa: Oh! What is this? Oh, it is Vasudeva with his first born child. Very good. Very good.

Vasudeva: Yes, I have brought the child in accordance to the promise I made to you. You may act as you will.

Kamsa: My dear Vasudeva, I am very pleased with you. Yes, indeed I am. But, you may keep this child, for I am not in danger from him; it is the eighth child of Devaki that I await. Why should I harm this child unnecessarily? You may take him back.

Devaki: Oh, my child! He's alive! Oh, my Lord, thank you! **(Narada Muni enters)**

Narada Muni: *Hare Krishna Hare Krishna, Krishna Krishna Hare Hare*
Hare Rama Hare Rama, Rama Rama Hare Hare.

Kamsa: Great sage Narada, please come. Take a seat.

Narada: My dear Kamsa, I have heard of your compassionate dealing with Vasudeva and his son, which is very nice of you. But let me warn you that many great personalities and demigods are taking birth in the Yadu dynasty; they have come to assist the Lord in His pastimes. I must leave now. *Hare Krishna Hare Krishna, Krishna Krishna Hare Hare, Hare Rama Hare Rama, Rama Rama Hare Hare.*

Kamsa: These words of Narada must be true! Therefore, any one of these sons of Devaki could be Krishna! Guards! Guards! Arrest Vasudeva and Devaki, chain them with iron shackles and have them guarded 24 hours a day!

SCENE FOUR

Guard: Kamsa, Kamsa! There is a child born in the jail.

Kamsa: What, another child?!

Devaki: My dear brother, will you not have a little mercy on me and let me keep this child?

Kamsa: Give me that child!!!

Devaki: (screams as Kamsa kills it)

SCENE FIVE

Narrator: In this way Kamsa killed six babies of Vasudeva and Devaki, one after another. When Devaki became pregnant for the seventh time, Krishna's expansion known as Ananta appeared in the womb of Devaki and was transferred to the womb of Rohini. When this was done, it appeared that Devaki's seventh pregnancy was a miscarriage. Thereafter the Lord, the Supreme Personality of Godhead, full with six opulences, took shelter within the womb of Devaki. At that time, Kamsa could appreciate that her beauty had greatly increased.

Kamsa: My sister's beauty seems to have increased so much; never before has she looked so beautiful. I am sure Lord Vishnu has now appeared in her womb. Oh, what is to be done with Devaki? It is certain that Krishna has come to execute the mission of the demigods. Even if I

kill Devaki, His mission will not be frustrated. To kill Devaki now would be a most abominable act. No one desires to destroy his own reputation, even in an awkward situation. Devaki is a women and under my shelter. Moreover, she is pregnant, and if I kill her, my reputation will surely be finished!

Guards, bring some food to eat... Oh, no it might be poisoned! I can't seem to think about anything accept of Krishna! Let me rest.

Voice: Krishna! Krishna!

Kamsa: No! I hear His name even in my sleep! O Krishna! What am I saying?

Narrator: Kamsa was now thinking of Krishna 24 hours a day while eating, sleeping, coming and going. He constantly saw the Lord before him, with the disc weapon in His hand.

SCENE SIX

Demigods: **(praying to the Lord in Devaki's womb)** My dear Lord Krishna. You have appeared just to fulfill Your vow to your devotees. You have stated that in order to kill the demons and protect the devotees You will appear. Although we have been assigned so-called high posts to rule the universe, in actual fact You are the creator, the maintainer and the destroyer. The whole creation ultimately rests upon You, and we act just for Your pleasure. We cannot act independently of Your will.

Our dear Lord, You have appeared in Your original unalloyed form of eternal goodness for the welfare of all the living entities within this material world. Taking advantage of these pastimes, we can learn about Your wonderful activities. Therefore, in Your appearance as Lord Krishna, You will establish that You are the Supreme Personality of Godhead, and that no one is equal to or greater than You.

Dear Lord, whose feet are meditated upon by great mystic *yogis* and sages, You appear in different incarnations such Rama, Nrisimha and Kalki; but Your appearance as Shyama-sundara is the most attractive. O Supreme Lord, You are appearing as the best of the Yadu dynasty, and we offer our respectful obeisances unto Your lotus feet. **(to Devaki)** O most fortunate mother Devaki, within your womb is the Supreme Personality of Godhead, the father of all created beings. You should not be fearful of your wicked brother Kamsa, for your Son has appeared to protect the godly and destroy the atheist, and will dispel all the darkness of the world. **(demigods leave)**

Narrator: Thereafter, at the auspicious time for the appearance of the Lord, the entire universe was surcharged with all the qualities of goodness, beauty and peace. All directions appeared extremely pleasing, and the beautiful stars twinkled in the cloudless sky. The rivers flowed

with clear water, and the lakes and vast reservoirs, full of lilies and lotuses, were extraordinarily beautiful. In the trees and green plants, full of flowers, the birds and bees began chanting with sweet voices. A pure breeze began to blow, bearing the aroma of scented flowers. When the *brahmanas* ignited their fires according to Vedic principles, the fire burned steadily. Thus, when the unborn Lord Vishnu, the Supreme Personality of Godhead, appeared, all the saints and *brahmanas* felt peace, and the kettledrums vibrated from the upper planetary system. **(Lord Vishnu appears, Vasudeva and Devaki offer prayers)**

Vasudeva: Look at this wonderful, amazing child! He appears to be fully decorated! Just see this beautiful curly hair, which decorates His all-attractive lotus-like face! No ordinary child can appear in this way. How wonderful it is that Krishna, the original Vishnu, has now appeared as our Son. How wonderful it is that although the Almighty Lord has no father, He has taken birth in our family just like an ordinary child. My only misfortune is that I cannot celebrate His appearance while kept in this prison by Kamsa.

O Almighty Lord, I can now understand who You are You are the Supreme Absolute Truth, the cause of all causes, and You have advented Yourself to protect Your devotees and to kill Kamsa and his followers. But as soon as he hears that You have been born, he will try to kill You.

Devaki: My dear Lord, I offer my respectful obeisances unto You. You are the original form of all incarnations, full of bliss, knowledge and eternity. My Lord, I request You to save me from the cruel hands of Kamsa. I am also very much afraid that he will try to harm You as soon as he hears You have appeared.

Lord Vishnu: My dear Devaki and Vasudeva, previous to this birth you had a strong desire to have me as your Son. So I have now appeared just to fulfil that desire. I am very pleased by your devotion to Me. I know that you are both concerned about My safety, therefore I order you to take Me immediately to Gokula and replace me with the daughter who has been born to Yashoda. **(Lord Vishnu disappears, baby Krishna remains)**

Vasudeva: Look, my chains have fallen off! The doors have opened and the guards are sleeping! Quick Devaki, give me the child. I must take Him across to Gokula, as it is the desire of the Lord.

Devaki: My Lord, please be careful! **(rain and thunder noise, Vasudeva carries the baby off)**

SCENE SEVEN

Guard: Maharaja! Maharaja! The eight child of Devaki is born. Come quickly!

Kamsa: What! Oh, no! Now the cruel death of my life is born. Come, let us go!

Devaki: My dear brother, please do not kill this female child! You are not to be killed by any female child; that was the omen! My dear brother, you have killed so many of my children! But I beg you to excuse this girl. Let her live!

Kamsa: Give me that child now!

Devaki: (screams, but Goddess Durga appears when Kamsa tries to kill the baby)

Durga: You rascal, Kamsa, how can you kill me? The child who will kill you is already born before me somewhere else in the world! Don't be so cruel to your poor sister!

Kamsa: My dear Vasudeva and Devaki, I have acted just like a demon by killing my own nephews. I do not know what bad results I will incur. Because I believed in the prophecy, I killed all your children. My dear sister Devaki, you are a gentle soul please do not grieve in this way. I am so poor-hearted, please excuse me and show your compassion towards me.

Vasudeva: My dear Kamsa, such is ordained by the will of the Lord. So what has happened, has happened. Do not be sorry.

Kamsa: Come, go back to your house and forget what has happened.

SCENE EIGHT

Villager: Please hear! Please hear! Wonderful tidings do I bring! O residents of Gokula! A Son has been born to Nanda Maharaja and his Queen Yashoda! Please, everyone come and join in the great festival of Sri Krishna Janmashtami! Look, here they come now! **(Nanda Maharaja, Yashoda and baby Krishna come on stage, surrounded by *brahmanas.* Nice *kirtan*)** *SRI KRISHNA JANMASHTAMI KI JAI!*

The End